



Transformative Growth Grants Program Overview

The Transformative Growth Grants Program is open to businesses and nonprofit organizations in Arlington that have a vision for their future and are seeking financial support to make it happen. The program will provide funds to a variety of business and nonprofit organizations that were disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Eligible project proposals must fit into one of five broad categories. The program is federally funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is subject to federal regulation. The application period will begin in May 2022, with grants being made in June 2022.

Transformative Growth Grants Timeline

May 10–June 7: Preliminary Application Period: Preliminary applications will be available online. The [online application](#) will require submission of nonprofit/business contact information, a project proposal, budget, narrative responses, and tax returns. The application is expected to take approximately 1 hour to complete. Paper applications will also be available at Town Hall during regular business hours until June 3rd. You may only submit an application online or by hardcopy. Duplicate applications are subject to disqualification.

June 8–June 10: Application Review Period: Review Committee evaluates applications and selects finalists. All applicants will be notified of their status by June 10.

June 13–17: Finalist Interviews: The second part of the application process will include a 30-minute interview with the Review Committee (in person or by Zoom, to be determined).

June 30: Grant Award Notices: Grant award notices will be sent to all finalists selected to receive a grant. Please note that additional documentation will be required at this time.

Who is eligible?

Applicants must meet the following three criteria:

1. Represent a disproportionately impacted industry, defined as one of the following:
 - Restaurants and Food Service;
 - Arts, Entertainment, and the Creative Economy;
 - Tourism and Recreation;
 - Personal Care and Beauty Salons;
 - Wellness and Fitness;
 - Childcare;
 - Nonprofits serving populations disproportionately impacted by Covid-19; or
 - Small-Scale Retail.
2. Applicants must be in good standing with the Town of Arlington, including being current on tax payments and having no current building or health code violations.
3. Applicants must have been in operation in Arlington, MA since at least January 1, 2022.

While not required, applicants located in Low- and Moderate-Income Census Block Groups, Difficult Development Zones, and business zoning districts will receive a bonus point. To determine if your business or nonprofit is located in one of these areas, please see the program guidelines.

Collaborations and partnerships are encouraged. If you represent a group of nonprofits or businesses applying for a grant together, you must identify one lead partner who will be responsible for submitting the application and managing the grant. Please note that all partners must be individually eligible.

What types of requests are eligible?

The Transformative Growth Grant program is flexible. The project should fall into one of the five following categories:

- **Placemaking:** Projects that cultivate inclusive and inspiring exterior spaces, through public art, communal gathering areas, façade improvements, collaborating with local artists, or other endeavors. *Property owner approval required if applicant is a tenant. Home-based businesses and nonprofits are ineligible for this category.*
- **Programming:** Organizational growth through new or expanded programs or services, including materials and operating costs.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Renovations to buildings or spaces to address public health concerns, become more resilient to climate change, and/or support organizational expansion. Capital purchases, including new equipment, should also be included in this category. *Property owner approval required if applicant is a tenant. Home-based businesses and nonprofits are ineligible for this category.*
- **Personnel:** Development of plans and programs to recruit and retain employees to develop the local workforce or development of strategies to help promote equitable access to work.
- **Planning:** Technical assistance, business counseling, marketing, or other services to assist with business planning, growth, resiliency planning, or change-related needs.

What types of requests are *not* eligible?

- Requests for working capital support (e.g. rent, mortgage, utilities, or most payroll) or to pay off existing debt.
- Requests to purchase property.
- Requests to support existing programs or services, including overhead and operating expenses.
- Requests for business travel.
- Requests for personal uses.
- Requests to reimburse the business or nonprofit for expenses that have already been paid.
- Requests from business franchises.
- Requests from organizations that are not part of a disproportionately impacted industry.
- Requests from businesses and nonprofits located outside of Arlington, Massachusetts.

**Payroll is an eligible request only for "Programming" project proposals that entail new or expanded services.*

How much grant funding is available?

The Transformative Growth Grant Program will provide up to \$860,900 to eligible organizations. Requests for grants of any amount will be considered. The Town of Arlington expects to fund up to 20 businesses and nonprofit organizations through this program.

What is the source of funding for the Transformative Growth Grants Program?

The Transformative Growth Grants Program is part of the Town of Arlington's ARPA framework, which was endorsed by the Arlington Select Board in October 2021. ARPA is intended to address the negative health and economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Arlington expects to receive a total of \$35.25 million in funds. More information about the ARPA framework can be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/ARPA. Organizations selected to receive grants are subject to all local, state, and federal regulations.

What should I do if I have questions about the program?

First, review the Transformative Growth Grants Program [Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Prospective applicants are also invited to schedule an appointment during office hours, designated times when applicants can sign up for individual Zoom meetings or phone calls to discuss questions and projects with Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) staff.

Prospective applicants may also email questions to covidrelief@town.arlington.ma.us. Please note, DPCD staff may recommend setting up an office hour session. If you need assistance completing the preliminary application or accessing any related documents because of a disability, lack of internet access, a language barrier, or another question, please contact the Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development at 781-316-3090.

I'm ready to apply!

Great! Visit www.arlingtonma.gov/arpa to apply today. Preliminary applications are due by June 7 at 11:59 p.m.